

Speech Recognition Information



Leading Software:

Dragon NaturallySpeaking 6.0 Preferred (Price \$170+ each)

Received PC Magazine's Editor's Choice award for speech recognition software

Recommended by CNET as #1 Choice for speech recognition (4/3/02)

Site licenses available at \$128 each (min of 10) includes curriculum from (www.speakingsolutions.com)

IBM ViaVoice 9.0 Professional (Price \$180+ each)

Recommended by CNET as #2 Choice for speech recognition (4/3/02)

Only speech recognition product for Macintosh

Microsoft Office XP (speech recognition included in software)

Requires use of keyboard and mouse as much as voice.

Recommended only for casual users; not user-friendly; not as accurate

Hardware Requirements:

Win 98 or higher; 128 RAM (recommend 256 or higher); 450 Mhz (recommend 500 or higher);
Certified sound card or USB Microphone (do not recommend integrated sound cards)

Headsets:

Good quality noise-canceling headsets are essential to good accuracy.

Recommendation: Plantronics SR-1 or SR .50 for desktops; Plantronics USB

DSP-100 for laptops or computers with integrated sound cards

(Special pricing of SR-1 headsets now at www.speakingsolutions.com)

Textbooks:

Speaking Solutions

Nifty Fifty Training Capsules (comes with site licenses)

South-Western/Thomson Learning

Speech Recognition for the Office Professional:

Dragon NaturallySpeaking 5.0 (ISBN 0-538-72371-8)

Dragon NaturallySpeaking 6.0 (ISBN 0-538-97936-4)

Must order 6.0 from Custom Publishing (800-355-9983)

IBM ViaVoice (ISBN 0-538-72372-6)

Microsoft Office XP (ISBN 0-538-72615-6) includes handwriting recognition

Glencoe/McGraw-Hill

Voice Recognition with Software Applications (ISBN 0-07-822641-4)

(Does not teach specific software features – designed for users who have already mastered speech recognition basics.)

SPEAKING SOLUTIONS, INC. (www.speakingsolutions.com) -- A good resource for information about speech recognition technology, repetitive stress injuries in children and teens, and educational pricing of speech recognition/handwriting recognition products.

Tips & Strategies for Speech Recognition Success

- **Make sure your computer meets or exceeds the hardware requirements** of the software.
- **Software should be loaded directly onto the hard drive** of the computer – not mirrored from a network. (DNS 6.0 does allow the software to be imaged from a server, but the profiles must be exported to the server and then imported back to use)
- **Purchase quality headsets if possible** – the generic ones shipped with some of the software reduces accuracy.
- **Get training if possible** – even a few hours of training will save you time and frustration in learning and teaching the basics. Teachers need to learn the basics before they teach this technology so they can identify and correct problem areas.
- **Use a textbook to teach the basics** – the textbooks with a step-by-step approach are very beneficial for teaching and applying the basic skills.
- **Students will reflect your attitude** – if you are frustrated, they will be frustrated. As with all new technologies, problems must be resolved and barriers overcome.
- **Monitor students** to make sure they are correcting errors and/or training words by voice (not the keyboard). Better typists want to revert to using the keyboard to make corrections at first, but the software does not learn anything and will continue to make the same errors if not corrected **by voice**.
- After students learn the basic skills, **rotate assignments between the keyboard and voice** to build both skills.
- **Use peer tutors** – using students (who have mastered the basic skills) to assist other students reinforces their skills and helps the teacher meet the needs of students simultaneously

Ideas for assessment of speech recognition skills:

- **Use a checklist** for mastery of specific skills
- **Give quizzes** on specific commands/features of software
- **Assign specific exercises** from a textbook to be printed
- **Provide completion points** at end of each lesson
- **Demonstrate certain skills** for teacher/class
- **Research and write a short report** (by voice) on speech recognition technology – include personal thoughts on benefits and challenges.
- **Complete a self-evaluation checklist** as well as record his/her thoughts about the benefits and challenges of using this technology.
- **Compose and create a document** by voice – letter, memo, email message, short story
- Give bonus points for using speech recognition in other applications (Excel, PowerPoint, etc.)
- Idea for a final test after mastering basic skills – **remove keyboard and assign X number of sentences to be voice typed** (include a couple of unique words that need to be added to vocabulary) correctly. Student must dictate name and all sentences correctly, print and submit to teacher. (This idea was given to me by an Oklahoma teacher.)